

their employees. That is not working out either.

Let me give an example: Only 14 percent of companies that are eligible for the tax credit are using it, and I will explain why.

I have a quote from Pat Thompson, a tax partner at Piccerelli, Gilstein & Company, in Providence, and chair of the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants, who said:

The definition of an eligible business is challenging because it is not based on [the number of] employees, but on full-time equivalents. For companies with a lot of part-timers . . . that is not very transparent.

He went on to say that the way to decide whether you are qualified for this tax credit is so complicated that most small companies can't figure it out. In fact, the companies that benefit the most from the tax credit are the ones that are least likely to get it because they cannot afford to hire a professional accounting firm to figure it out for them.

Here is another one from the Birmingham Business Journal. The manager at a health care consulting group, Warren Averett, LLC, said that only 20 percent of the small businesses they deal with even qualify for the credit. He said many businesses he worked with offered less than 50 percent, and bumping their coverage to meet the requirement would have cost them more than the credit saved them.

These are serious problems with this tax credit, not to mention that the General Accounting Office has already said the credit is so small that it is just not enough to change the equation for these small businesses to use it.

What is the bottom line? The bottom line is that two of the things we are being told are going to help small businesses with ObamaCare are not going to. One is an exchange that is relying upon there being competition among insurers. They are not signing up, folks. The other is this tax credit that is being deeply underutilized and it is so complicated and so small that most small businesses will not benefit from it.

I say all that to my colleagues because yesterday we heard from a real small business owner—someone who is the epitome of what it means to own a small business in America. His name is Larry Katz. He owns some restaurants called Dots Diner. Here is what he said. His dream was to own his own company so he cashed in his whole life insurance policy, he calculated how much credit card availability he had, and emptied his life savings. With less than \$200,000, he opened his first diner. Within 12 months he had stopped sleeping. He was down to less than \$10,000 in savings. He considered two options: Either mortgage his home or declare bankruptcy. That is what he faced, but he made it through, as many small businesses make it through in America. Today he owns 6 diners, 85 employees, 65 of them are full-time.

Here is what he offers those employees today: paid holidays, vacation, den-

tal, vision, term life, and health insurance. He offers those to them right now, but because of how much ObamaCare is going to cost him, here is what he is going to have to do. He said:

I have unfortunately made the decision to quit offering coverage as soon as the employer mandate kicks in, as the penalty, while huge, is less than the costs of offering the required coverage to all of our employees.

What he is basically saying is that there are employees today in his business in Louisiana who have health insurance, who are happy with their health insurance, but because of ObamaCare they are going to lose that health insurance.

One of the promises made to the American people was, if you are happy with your health insurance, you get to keep it. I know of at least one business in Louisiana where that is not true, and I promise it is not limited to just this business. In fact, the evidence keeps coming in from all over the country the impact this is going to have.

Here is a quote from Texas: At Lion & Rose pubs and Golden Chick SA restaurants, 1,000-plus employees saw their work schedules reduced to part-time shifts.

From the Wall Street Journal: Ken Adams has been turning to more part-time workers at his 10 Subway sandwich shops in Michigan to avoid possibly incurring higher health care costs.

From the same article: Rod Carstensen, owner of 11 Del Taco restaurants around Denver in Colorado, began in April converting his mostly full-time workforce into one comprised of mostly part-time to help minimize the health care costs.

This is the real impact.

Interestingly, I asked an administration official yesterday: Can you tell us whether anyone who has health insurance now and is happy with it will lose it?

The answer: I can't answer that.

I don't know if she meant she doesn't know or if she meant she can't tell me. But I can tell my colleagues, and small businesses will tell us, if we talk to them, the impact this is going to have is not only that people are going to lose their health care coverage, they are going to lose their hours and get moved from full time to part time.

Here is something: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce did a poll: 74 percent of small businesses plan to deduct the costly law of ObamaCare by either firing workers, reducing hours of full-time staff and moving them to part time or not offering any coverage at all.

This is the real-world impact of ObamaCare on the middle class and working class. This is terrible for our country.

This is no longer a Republican or Democratic issue. It doesn't matter if a person voted for Mitt Romney or

Barack Obama. This is going to hurt everybody. There are working-class people in America who have existing insurance who are happy with their doctor, and they are going to lose all of that because of this experiment. There are people today who are struggling to make it just as it is, and they are going to lose their hours. They are going to get forced from full-time work to part-time work. That is the real-life impact of ObamaCare. That is the impact it is having on the working class and on the middle class.

How can we go forward with this? We have a chance to stop this. It may be our last best chance, and it comes in September when we have to pass a short-term budget in this Chamber. If we vote for a budget that funds this, this is going to move forward and hurt people terribly, and those who vote for it are going to have to answer for that.

To my Republican colleagues I would just say this: If we are not going to draw a line in the sand on ObamaCare, we have no lines in the sand. If this issue is not important enough for us to draw a line in the sand, what issue is? This is not a political issue. This is not a partisan issue.

Today I am giving this speech on behalf of the hard-working men and women of this country—working class, middle class, small business owners—who are going to be terribly impacted by this law. We cannot just stand by and allow it to go further. We have to do everything we can to keep this from happening to people, and in September we will have our last best chance to do that.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, America has a rich history of immigration. We are a nation of immigrants. There is hardly a person in America today who doesn't have an immigrant parent, grandparent, or at least someone in their lineage who came to this country from another place.

I have told this story many times on the floor: My mother was an immigrant. She was brought to America at the age of 2 from Lithuania. Her son now stands in the Senate. That is my story, that is my family's story, but it is America's story. It can be repeated over and over and over again.

We think about the Statue of Liberty and how it thrills so many people to

see it for the first time and then to understand the message of the Statue of Liberty: To “lift my lamp beside that golden door” so that people are welcomed to this country. We knew it from the beginning: It was the key to our future.

So many times this issue of immigration is overlooked. It is such a critical part of who we are in America. Think back in your own family history—one generation, two or three generations—to a person in a foreign land who said one day, “We are going to America,” who undoubtedly was questioned about that decision: You are going to a place you have never been, to a place where they don’t speak our language, to a place where they eat different kinds of food? That will be quite a challenge. Well, it was. Millions of people made that trip and came to this country facing that challenge, and they made us who we are today.

In the DNA of most of us who live in America is some little chromosome that said there is a courage to move and a courage to come, and I think it makes us better.

I think immigration is one of the most important parts of America. Thank goodness immigration continues because it brings to our shores amazing people, new generations of leaders who found companies and worked hard so their children and their children’s children will do better.

If that is a fact about America and our history of immigration, there is also another fact. There have always been haters—people who hate immigrants. I don’t know when it started. Maybe after the Mayflower landed, the folks got off and said: Please don’t send us any more. But it has been part of American history and part of American political history and part of the Congress.

I was reading a book as we started to debate the question of immigration reform entitled “Coming To America” by Roger Daniels, and it is a history of immigration in America. It speaks of a Member of the House of Representatives in 1924 named Albert Johnson. He was a Republican from Washington State.

When I read this book on the history of immigration, I came up with some interesting quotes. It is in 1924. Albert Johnson, a Republican from Washington State, is chairing the House Committee on Immigration. This is what he said:

Today, instead of a well-knit homogeneous citizenry, we have a body politic made up of all and every diverse element. Today, instead of a nation descended from generations of free men bred to a knowledge of the principles and practice of self-government, of liberty under law, we have a heterogeneous population no small proportion of which is sprung from races that, throughout the centuries, have known no liberty at all. . . .

Congressman Johnson said:

Our capacity to maintain our cherished institutions stands diluted by a stream of alien blood with all its inherited misconceptions respecting the relationships of the governing

power to the governed. It is no wonder, therefore, that the myth of the melting pot has been discredited.

He said:

The United States is our land. We intend to maintain it so. The day of unalloyed welcome to all peoples, the day of indiscriminate acceptance of all races, has definitely ended.

That was a statement made by a Member of Congress in 1924. You read it today and you think to yourself, how could anyone possibly be talking about racial purity in the United States of America, as he did? It draws so many terrifying parallels to a debate that happened not many years later in Europe over racial purity, but it happened. And it happened in the U.S. Congress. Sadly, that was not the end of hatred toward immigration in the U.S. Congress.

Twelve years ago I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act was a response to a constituent case in my office. A young woman, a Korean woman in Chicago, called our office. She had a story to tell. She said that she had brought her daughter at the age of 2 from Korea to the United States, to Chicago, on a visitor’s visa, along with her husband. They envisioned that her husband would open a church. They looked forward to that day, and it never happened. Her husband continued to pray for that miracle for their family, but the mother said: I have to go to work. The mother went to work in a drycleaning establishment in Chicago.

If you have been to that wonderful city, you know that the majority of drycleaning establishments are run by Korean families—hard-working people who work 12 hours a day and do not think twice about doing it.

Well, this woman went to work, but she was not making much money, and her little girl, as well as the girl’s brother and sister, grew up in deepest poverty. The little girl tells the story that when she went to middle school and high school, she would wait until the end of the lunch hour, when students were throwing away the part of their lunch they did not eat, and she would dig through the wastebasket to find food. That is how poor they were.

But something came along in her life that made all the difference in the world. In Chicago we have something called the MERIT Music Program. A woman decided 10 or 15 years ago to leave some money, and she said: Use this money to provide musical instruments to children, poor children in public schools, as well as the lessons they need so they can play the instruments. The MERIT Music Program is an amazing success. One hundred percent of the students who are enrolled in that MERIT Music Program go to college—100 percent.

Well, this little girl, this Korean immigrant girl, was brought into the program and introduced at the age of 12 to a piano for the first time. She fell in love with the piano, and she started

working and practicing on it. She would stay at MERIT Music Program headquarters late into the night. They finally gave her a key because it was warm and she wanted to practice her piano.

She became such an accomplished pianist that by the time she was in high school she was accepted into the Juilliard School of Music and the Manhattan Conservatory of Music—amazing for this poor Korean girl. When she applied and went through filling out the application, she came to the line that said “nationally and citizenship,” and she turned to her mother and said: What do I put here?

Her mom said: I don’t know. We brought you here at the age of 2, and we never filed any papers.

The girl said: What are we going to do?

The mom said: Let’s call Senator DURBIN.

So they called our office, and we checked on the law. The law in the United States is very clear and very cruel. The law in the United States said that little girl had to leave this country for 10 years and apply to come back—10 years. She had been brought here at the age of 2. She was only 17 or 18 at the time.

Well, that is when I decided to introduce the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act said that if you were brought here as a child to the United States, if you complete high school, if you have no criminal record of any concern and you are prepared to either enlist in our military or finish at least 2 years of college, we will put you on a path to becoming a citizen of the United States of America. That was the DREAM Act, introduced 12 years ago, called on the floor many different times for passage. It finally passed just a few weeks ago as part of comprehensive immigration reform.

I might tell you the end of the story about this young girl. She did not qualify for any financial assistance because she was undocumented. Two families in Chicago and one woman who is an amazing friend of mine named Joan Harris said they would pay for her education. She went to the Manhattan Conservatory of Music. She excelled in the piano. She played at Carnegie Hall. She married an American jazz musician and became a citizen of the United States, and now she is working on her Ph.D. in music. She just sent me her tape for her Ph.D., and she is amazing.

Tereza Lee is her name. She is the first DREAMer, and it is because of her that I come to the floor today. You see, just yesterday it was disclosed that a Member of the House of Representatives, Congressman STEVEN KING of Iowa, spoke to the issue of the DREAMERS. I do not know how many DREAMers—students who would qualify for the DREAM Act—Congressman KING has met. I have met hundreds of them. They are amazing, incredible, living their entire lives in the United States undocumented, fearing deportation any minute of any day, wondering

what tomorrow will bring, standing up in the classrooms of America and pledging allegiance to the only flag they have ever known, singing the only national anthem they know, and being told by so many people: You don't belong here. You are not part of this country.

They are completely conflicted and worried and uncertain about their future, and they are nothing short of amazing. These young people have done things with their lives that are just incredible. They are the valedictorians of their classes in many cases. They have gone on to college and paid for it out of their pocket in many cases.

I have come to the floor on 54 different occasions with colored photos of these DREAMers from all over the United States, when they gave us the permission to disclose their identities, and told their stories. And every time I have told that story about that DREAMer, someone has stopped me in the hall and said: That is an amazing story about this young person who just wants to be part of the United States and its future.

So it was troubling yesterday to pick up and read the quote from STEVEN KING, who is a Congressman from Iowa. Mr. KING is no newcomer when it comes to criticizing immigration. He introduced a bill 3 or 4 weeks ago in the House of Representatives that would have removed all of the Federal funds that are being used now to spare these DREAMers in the United States from deportation. In other words, the President has issued an Executive order so the young people who are eligible for the DREAM Act can stay. He wanted to remove all the funds so they would have to be deported immediately. He called that for a vote. It passed in the U.S. House of Representatives just a few weeks ago, overwhelmingly supported by his Republican side of the aisle. So STEVEN KING has a record of opposing immigration and doing it in a very forceful way.

But they found a quote he had made, a statement he had made on the issue of DREAMers, and that is why I come to the floor today.

In an interview with Radio Iowa, Mr. KING said yesterday, as reported in the Washington Post:

"It seems as though I have a few critics out there, but those who have been advocating for the DREAM Act have been trying to make it about valedictorians," King said in an interview with Radio Iowa. "I don't disagree that there are DREAMers that are valedictorians, but it also would legalize those that are smuggling drugs into the United States."

In his original comments, Congressman KING of Iowa said, "For everyone who's a valedictorian, there's another 100 out there who weigh 130 pounds—and they've got calves the size of cantaloupes because they're hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert."

In his interview Tuesday evening, [Congressman King] doubled down on those comments—

According to the Washington Post—saying, "We have people that are mules, that are drug mules, that are hauling drugs across the border and you can tell by their physical characteristics what they've been doing it for months."

Mr. President, if you are going to be part of this political business, you better have a pretty tough spine and a pretty hard shell because people throw criticism around all the time, and if you cannot take it, this ain't beanbag, do something else.

But I deeply resent what was said by Congressman KING about these DREAMers. It is totally unfair. It is mean, and it is hateful. Do not take my word for it; take the words of the Republican leaders who responded to Mr. KING.

House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, commenting on Congressman KING's comments, called them "wrong" and "hateful." That is from Speaker BOEHNER.

House majority leader ERIC CANTOR, Republican of Virginia, said they were "inexcusable."

During a House Judiciary Committee subcommittee hearing Tuesday, Representative JOSEPH GARCIA, Democrat of Florida, described KING's words as "beneath the dignity of this body."

Representative RAUL LABRADOR, Republican of Idaho, who has been heavily involved in immigration reform, expressed hope Wednesday that KING regretted his remarks. "There's nobody in the conference who would say such a thing and I hope that he, if he thought about it, he wouldn't say such a thing again," LABRADOR said.

It is heartening to know that Members of Congressman KING's own political party—Republicans—have stated unequivocally how awful his statement was. It troubles me and it is heart-breaking to think that these DREAMers—these young people who are simply asking for a chance to be part of the United States—would be characterized as dope smugglers and drug smugglers.

Obviously, Congressman KING has never read the DREAM Act because if you have ever been convicted of a crime, you cannot be approved through the DREAM Act for citizenship—not a serious crime. That is part of the law. He should know better, but I am not sure that he cares.

I am glad Members of his own party have stepped up and branded these comments for what they are. What I have to say to him is, take a moment away from the media, meet some of these DREAMers, and hear their stories. Hear what they have been through, and hear about what they want to do with their lives for the future of the United States of America.

To the DREAMers themselves, this is not the first criticism they have run into. They have taken a lot. They are courageous young men and women.

When I started this trek, this 12-year trek on the DREAM Act, I used to give speeches in Chicago about the bill, and there would be audiences full of Hispanics usually. Nothing much would be

said. I would go out to my car afterward, and in the darkness there would be a couple students waiting by the car. They would call me to the side, after they looked both ways to make sure no one was around, and they would say: Senator, we are DREAMers. We are counting on you to give us a chance. Over the years, these young people who waited to greet me in the darkness when no one was around have now stepped up. They are identifying who they are so America knows what is at stake.

When you meet the DREAMers, you will realize how awful and wrong these statements by Congressman KING are. There will always be critics of immigration in America. It is part of our national tradition. But I do believe the vast majority of Americans are fair people. They are people who believe in justice. They do not believe that a child—that a child—should be held responsible for any wrongdoing by their parent. If their parent brought them to the United States as a baby, they had no voice in that decision. Why should they be penalized for that decision? They should be given their own chance to become part of this Nation's future.

I will close by saying that maybe Tereza Lee was not the first DREAMer in my life. My mother was brought here at the age of 2 and certainly did not have much of a voice in the decision to come to America. But thank goodness her mother and father decided to make that trip and that my grandparents located in Illinois and gave me a chance to grow up in a great place with a great family. That is my story, and that is America's story.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, Senator DURBIN is such an eloquent champion for righting injustice, and I am always impressed with him, and I do agree that the American people are good and decent people. They want the right thing. They want the right thing on immigration. Part of that is a lawful system of immigration that serves the national interests of our country. We disagree on how to get there sometimes, but you cannot dispute the passion of Senator DURBIN.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to share some thoughts about the President's tour today and the last couple of days talking about jobs.

Well, I have to say, first and foremost, this country is not doing well economically. It is just not.

You hear the stock market is up, and people try to translate that into substantial progress in the economy. But it is just not there, particularly with jobs. The fourth quarter of last year, our GDP growth was .4 percent. By the time the first half of this year concludes, we are not going to have 2 percent growth over that period.